REPORTS

—OF THE—

TOWN OFFICERS

—OF THE—

Town of Northfield.

1902-3.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

Overseers of Poor and Assessors,

OF THE

Town of Northfield

TOGETHER WITH

Reports of the Treasursr, Collector, School Committee, Cemetery Commissioners, Library Trustees and Librarian.

For the Year Ending Feb. 1,

1903.

ATHOL, MASS.
PRINTED BY THE ATHOL TRANSCRIPT CO.,
1903.

Report of the Selectmen for the Year.

While the financial condition of the town funds is shown in detail in the tabulated statements rendered by your officers, it may prove helpful to a correct understanding of the true conditions existing in our finances if your attention is called to these conditions in a familiar manner rather than by columns of figures only.

The total amount represented by the orders drawn upon the town treasurer by the selectmen during the past year is $39,443. This is an average of $3286 each month. This amount includes the cost of the Schell Memorial Bridge in so far as it has now been paid for, and it indicates the volume of business transacted by the town rather than an expenditure of town funds. The total of the transactions of the town treasurer is $62,327.59, an amount considerably larger than that representing the orders drawn by the selectmen. The exhibit of the treasurer will indicate that portion of his transactions which has been without selectmen's orders according to custom and law.

To carry on this large volume of business the town has invested a capital equal to the sum of its assets as shown in the financial statement rendered by the selectmen, diminished by the total of the town's liabilities as shown in the same statement. This is the net sum of $4326.93. This is the amount that the town has on hand with which it is to commence its business for the next year, and it is not more than will be found necessary to pay the necessary expenses before the next year's tax begins to be received. The condition of this town financially, so far as assets and liabilities are concerned, is fairly good, but no above normal.

The tax rate has increased for a period covered by the last three years over what it was previous to that time. The reasons for this in-

crease will appear to all those who have had their residence here during that time, and the improvements that have come to the town thereby are the justification for the increase. The tax rate is not large, however, as compared with that of other towns in this vicinity, and many of the hill towns would be glad to have a rate so low. Higher taxes in the town have not been an unmixed evil, for, in addition to the improvements that have resulted, there has come to the town a prosperity that has called for the labor, at good wages, of every able bodied man within its limits who was willing to work.

While the future can not be seen with certainty, it seems probable that there will be other calls for improvements that will necessitate even greater expenditures than those of the past have been.

Already there are several projects in view on the part of interested citizens that will call for liberal appropriations, and each of these projects is a worthy one, deserving public sanction, and all the financial encouragement that they require. Among these may be mentioned, an improved town hall, the installation of a heating system at the Center School House, repairs on the school house at East Northfield or an entirely new building there, and another appropriation for an extension of the State road. All of these interests have been before the people of Northfield for several years, and some of them have been matters of effort on the part of town officers or interested parties in previous town meetings. It is only a question of time when appropriations must be made for each of these objects, and the only argument that can be urged against any one of them is that of financial inability; the need is apparent to all.

It is recognized that the burden of taxation is somewhat unjustly distributed, and that it often bears heavily upon the man who pays a small sum, or who has a large farm, a doubtful income, or a large tax as compared with his income. These classes should not be burdened more heavily than at present. If there is a class of taxable property that now pays little or no tax, and if that property can be reached and made to bear its just proportion of the financial need of the town, then the improvements now under contemplation and others that may yet appear will be enjoyed by the people of Northfield in the same measure as they are enjoyed by other towns of like valuation.

It is the belief of your selectmen that there are such classes of property, and they can be reached, although the efforts made in the past

have not accomplished that result as fully as is to be desired. The duty of the assessors is a very important and delicate one. A thorough knowledge of the law bearing upon the subject is imperative, experience in this branch of town business is most valuable, wisdom and tact in the application of the law is needed. With this combination of ability, the valuation of the town should be so increased that the increased expenditures will not raise the rate of taxation in the least.

During the past year, one mile of State road has been finished. The proper season for the full appreciation of this improvement has not yet arrived, but it is generally conceded that the expenditure of money on the part of the town was a wise one. If it is the policy of Northfield to encourage the State to continue the work now so well begun, an appropriation for that purpose should be made at the approaching town meeting. This section of macadamized highway is an object lesson to the town, and it is the belief of your selectmen that a certain portion of the money appropriated annually for highways should be devoted to the making of some permanent improvement.

Owing to circumstances rather than to management, the expense for the poor has been somewhat less than it was last year, and less than the appropriation for that purpose. On the other hand the expense for highways has been more than the appropriation. The chief reasons for the over-draft are found in the unanticipated expense attendant upon rebuilding the Pine Meadow bridge at Northfield Farms and several other smaller bridges that have required more than the usual attention.

The expense of the under-pass of the C. V. R. R. will be among the expenditures of next year. This town's portion of the same is ten per cent of the entire cost; the remainder of the expense is to be paid by the railroad and the State.

HENRY C. HOLTON,
E. S. BARDWELL,
J. L. HAMMOND,
} Selectmen of Northfield.

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

FRANKLIN, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Northfield, in the County of Franklin—Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall, in said Northfield, on Monday, the second day of March next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles:

Art. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To hear the reports of the several town officers and outstanding committees, or act thereon.

Art. 3. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year, also to bring in their ballots, Yes or No, in answer to the following question: Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?

Art. 4. To see if the town will accept the Jury list as revised, or act thereon.

Art. 5. To see if the town will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to make temporary loans, or act thereon.

Art. 6. To see if the town will raise and appropriate $50 for Memorial day exercises, the same to be paid to and expended by the G. A. R. Post 171, or act thereon.

Art. 7. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to apply on the town debt.

Art. 8. To see if the town will raise and appropriate $150 for the care and improvement of cemeteries, or act thereon.

Art. 9. To see what action the town will take in regard to discount or interest on taxes, or act thereon.

Art. 10. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for the observance of "Old Home Week" or act thereon.

Art. 11. To see if the town will raise and appropriate $1532, the amount of interest and the second bond on the bridge debt, or act thereon.

Art. 12. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for the building of the new road as laid by the County Commissioners, extending from Main street across the "Schell Memorial Bridge" to the South Vernon road, or act thereon.

Art. 13. To see if the town will sell that part of the "Belcher Pasture" not used for cemetery purposes, or act thereon.

Art. 14. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to cooperate with the Mass. Highway Commission for the construction of state road, or act thereon.

Art. 15. To see if the town will raise and appropriate money for changes or additions to the town hall, or act thereon.

Art. 16. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay the town's proportion of expenses in constructing the underpass of the Central Vermont railroad, or act thereon.

Art. 17. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for the repair or rebuilding the East Northfield school house, or act thereon.

Art. 18. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to grade and drain the plain road at West Northfield, or act thereon.

Art. 19. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to gravel Warwick Avenue, east of Highland Avenue, or act thereon.

Art. 20. To see if the town shall hereafter use the official ballot in town elections, or act thereon.

Art. 21. To determine what officers shall be elected by the official ballot, and to fix the term of office.

Art 22. To raise such sums of money as shall be necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Post Offices, Northfield, East Northfield, West

Northfield, Northfield Farms, and at the school house District No. 6, in said Town, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 20th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and three.

HENRY C. HOLTON,
E. S. BARDWELL,
J. L. HAMMOND,
} Selectmen of Northfield.

TOWN OFFICERS.

TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER,
Warren J. Wright.

SELECTMEN.

Henry C. Holt, E. S. Bardwell, J. L. Hammond

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Nellie M. Wood,	Term Expires	1903
L. R. Smith,	" "	1904
E. S. Bardwell,	" "	1905

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

N. Fay Smith,	Term Expires	1903
H. W. Montague,	" "	1903
Dr. N. P. Wood,	" "	1904
Chas. H. Green,	" "	1904
Rev. Geo. F. Piper,	" "	1905
Mrs. R. K. Caldwell,	" "	1905

LIBRARIAN.
Mrs. F. J. Stockbridge.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS.

F. A. Hillard,	Term Expires	1903
R. E. Dickinson,	" "	1904
C. C. Stearns,	" "	1905

CONSTABLES.

M. T. Moore, Fred W. Doane,
Anson O. Howard.

AUDITOR.

E. C. Field.

FENCE VIEWERS.

F. E. Heald, J. R. Colton, Henry C. Holton.

TREE WARDEN.

F. W. Doane.

FIELD DRIVERS.

John Coughlin, J. J. Fisher, T. A. Clark,
F. W. Ruggles, E. H. Chamberlin, F. L. Proctor,

POUND KEEPER.

C. R. Pomeroy.

SURVEYORS OF WOOD AND LUMBER.

F. S. Stevens, John Dale, Geo. W. Piper,
C. R. Nelson, S. G. Titus, Lewis Fowler.

FIRE WARDENS.

James Wall, Geo. W. Piper, F. S. Stevens,
J. E. Coleman, F. H. Montague.

Assessors' Report.

Valuation of real estate,	$867,252 00
personal estate,	94,516 00
Total valuation May 1st,	$961,768 00
Number of polls,	445
persons assessed,	729
persons assessed on property,	582
persons assessed poll tax only,	147
resident tax payers,	432
horses assessed,	505
cows assessed,	678
sheep assessed,	162
neat cattle assessed,	300
swine assessed,	127
dwellings assessed,	440
acres land assessed,	19860
ASSESSMENT FOR 1902.	
State tax,	$525 00
County tax,	2058 58
TOWN APPROPRIATIONS.	
Schools in general,	$3100 00
repairs,	300 00
text books and supplies,	300 00
conveyance,	300 00
superintendent,	300 00
Contingent and poor,	4000 00
Highways,	2300 00

Library,		910 00
State highway,		500 00
Interest and bond on bridge debt,		1550 00
Old Home Week,		100 00
Graveling Maple Street,		125 00
Cemetery,		150 00
Memorial Day,		50 00
Payment on town debt,		200 00
Overlay,		678 93
		$17,447 51
Raised on polls,	$890 00	
" personal estate,	1474 45	
" real estate,	13,533 06	
		$15,897 51

HENRY C. HOLTON,
E. S. BARDWELL,
J. L. HAMMOND,
} Assessors of Northfield.

Jury List for 1903.

Aldrich, W. M.
Adams, Ozro D.
Alexander, N. D.
Black, James W.
Brown, H. A.
Braman, H. P.
Carroll, J. L.
Chamberlain, H. H.
Colton, J. R.
Durkee, Oscar F.
Doolittle, F. H.
Dickinson, R. E.
Elmer, Alton D.
Esterbrook, F. B.
Fowler, Lewis
Holton, Fred V.
Holton, Geo. E.
Hammond, J. L.
Howard, Anson O.
Irish, Fred A.
Leach, Ralph O.
Mann, J. Wesley
Moore, W. M.
Montague, F. H.
Nelson, Cola R.
Parker, C. A.
Proctor, F. L.
Ross, Joseph A.
Ruggles, Fred W.
Russell, E. E.
Robbins, C. L.
Stebbins, C. W.
Tyler, F. Leslie

Contingent.

E. S. Bardwell, selectmen,		$226 75
expenses D. Cook case,		29 95
expenses postage town reports,		9 19
school committee,		5 00
Central Vt. Ry. Co., bridge rent,		450 00
Hobbs & Warren, order book,		6 50
Athol Transcript, town reports,		39 00
F. W. Doane, posting town warrants,	6 00	
fighting fire,	1 75	
constable and tree warden,	6 50	
		14 25
Nellie M. Wood, school committee,		7 16
J. L. Hammond, selectman,		86 50
Henry C. Holton, selectman,		95 00
F. J. Stockbridge, registrar,		11 25
N. D. Alexander, "		10 00
T. R. Callendar, "		10 00
Weeks & Potter, formaldehyde,		3 45
Sec. of Commonwealth, revised laws,		6 00
Samuel Ward Co., books,		1 53
T. B. Esterbrook, inspector,		36 50
Joseph E. Ross, "		60 25
F. A. Hilliard, "		15 25
Am. Ex. Co., express,		5 15
Raymond & Co., printing,		8 75
G. W. Piper, fire warden,		13 75
P. B. Murphy, dog blanks,		1 75
Charles Rice, fighting fire,		3 75
G. H. Slate, "		1 75

G. L. Dickinson, "		1 00
A. H. Irish, "		2 00
C. T. Bagnall, printing,		8 90
Northfield Harness Co., straps,		3 50
E. S. Bardwell, car fare and expenses,		13 65
postage,		10 62
M. T. Moore, stamps,	6 00	
constable,	17 00	
		23 00
collector 1900 tax,		25 00
collector 1901 tax,		25 00
abatement 1900 tax,		45 57
Northfield Water Co.,		8 00
H. R. Johnson, tax book,		1 58
C. H. Webster, insurance,	10 50	
affidavit and env.,	15 82	
		26 32
H. H. Mason, driving hearse,	35 00	
death returns,	2 25	
care of town hall,	24 00	
care of town clock,	2 50	
		63 75
C. E. Williams, supplies,		13 50
A. H. Bartlett, printing,		4 65
J. R. Colton, bond,		25 00
The Recorder, printing,		3 15
J. and I. Gold, damages,		25 00
C. H. Green, abatement,		4 68
H. K. Mulford Co., formaldehyde,		1 83
E. A. Hall & Co., town warrants,		2 20
Orange Savings Bank, abatement,		3 98
Jas. Quinlan, election officer,		2 50
J. W. Black, "		2 50
F. E. Aldrich, "		2 50
C. C. Stearns, "		2 50
C. L. Robbins, "		2 50
F. S. Stevens, fire warden and care town clock,		14 45
E. C. Field, auditor,		4 25
J. E. Merriman, abatement,		2 88

District Court, Fees,	207 64	
Geo. J. Strange, injuries to horse,	64 33	
A. H. Holton, witness,	2 00	
F. A. Hilliard, cemetery com.,	1 25	
R. E. Dickinson, " "	1 25	
C. C. Stearns, " "	1 25	
Mrs. John Ross, care of lanterns,	20 10	
New England Tel. & Tel. Co., tolls,	4 07	
G. N. Kidder & Co., death returns,	5 25	
W. J. Wright, stamps and sta.	15 20	
" return of births,	8 25	
" express,	5 05	
" clerk and treas.,	277 10	
C. A. Ware, election officer,	2 50	
E. S. Bardwell, collector of taxes,	100 00	
F. L. Proctor, livery,	5 50	
CELEBRATION PRES. ROOSEVELT'S VISIT.		
C. P. Buckman & Co., decorating,	12 00	
E. C. Eames, bunting,	14 39	
Lucius Nims, hack,	20 00	
E. H. Chamberlain, labor,	2 50	
		$2304 02

HIGHWAYS.

R. K. Caldwell, fence wire,		$6 69
F. L. Hale, labor,		45
Frank Harness, "		18 76
S. S. Fisher, "		21 15
Wm. Smith, "		3 30
J. A. Holland, "		45
H. C. Holton, "		138 75
Jos. A. Ross, "		127 51
M. Dunn, water,		5 00
J. L. Carroll, labor,		3 75
C. M. Baldwin, "		18 73
Fred W. Doane, "		112 70
F. C. Britton, "		180 10
A. C. Holton, "		10 00
W. H. Browning, "		19 00
R. E. Long, "		265 45
Edw. Kemplin, "		21 00
F. B. Esterbrook, "		75
Waldo Stebbins, "		75
Herbert Doolittle, "		1 20
F. Z. Allen, plank,		48 40
F. L. Tyler, "		5 25
P. Kavanaugh, "		1 50
S. Ruggles, "		7 87
Frank Stratton, "		12 90
F. W. Ruggles, "		79 42
L. E. Fisher, "		6 00
C. A. Randall, "		28 00
F. I. Webster, sheaves,	4 40	
scraper,	5 95	
rope and wire,	35 94	
		$46 29

E. W. Smith, labor,		12 80
W. H. Aldrich, "		4 50
W. J. Leonard, "		5 25
F. B. Holton, "		20 99
C. I. Holton, "		142 30
John Robbins, "		14 90
Smith & Reed, "		34 90
W. W. Ross, "		29 25
Frank Ross, "		6 00
W. C. Fellows, "		3 00
F. H. Simonds, "		4 50
O. S. Fisher, "		46 70
Ned Whitney, "		10 50
J. E. Bosworth, "		9 00
D. L. Atwood, "		8 25
W. S. Hastings, "		27 25
A. R. Miner, "		1 50
G. W. Allen, painting bridge,		3 00
Good Roads Mch. Co., scraper points,		2 00
J. J. Fisher, labor,		52 17
James Caughlin, "		1 35
F. E. Aldrich, lumber,		68 23
B. E. Tufts, labor,		12 60
Geo. H. Slate, "		17 40
A. Wallett, "		6 25
T. F. Reed, "		5 65
G. R. Clough, "		51 55
E. Shautley, ferryman,		29 70
J. L. Hammond, labor,		154 41
Central Vt. Ry. Co., freight,		60 42
G. N. Kidder & Co., paint,		1 25
E. S. Bardwell, labor,		35 80
James Wall, "		19 60
C. A. Whitaker, "		2 98
H. H. Johnson, "		15 50
Fred M. Ross, "		72 35
C. W. Stratton, "		7 95
Seymour & Newell, Nfld Farms bridge,	1026 95	
" " tile, labor and plow,	86 51	
		$1113 46

L. W. Pratt,	labor,	15 60
Jason Bump,	"	76 40
Mass. Broken Stone Co., labor and tile,		182 56
J. C. Delva, row boat,		17 00
F. W. Wilber, labor and mat.,		9 38
Robbins & Evans, supplies,		9 63
F. L. Proctor, livery,		1 75
J. W. Black, labor,		50
Cent. Vt. Ry. Co., freight,		2 97
W. D. Morgan, tile,		9 35
Cola R. Nelson, lumber,		35 00
N. H. Johnson,	labor,	1 50
H. P. Johnson,	"	3 50
C. E. Williams, supplies,		15 22
F. A. Hilliard,	labor,	42 50
L. O. Clapp,	"	38 10
Northfield Seminary, labor,		58 28
A. Whitaker,	labor,	2 27
Charles O'Clair,	"	1 50
L. C. Miller, water and labor,		10 50
F. H. Smith,	labor,	14 48
C. C. Hosley,	"	3 10
E. Motchman,	"	2 05
Peter & Joe Italy,	"	72 17
H. W. Bardwell,	"	34 20
E. B. Murdock,	"	10 60
F. H. Montague,	"	12 00
B. J. Gillett,	"	3 75
Wm. Bain,	"	45 23
Charles Gillett,	"	3 75
J. M. Anderson,	"	1 25
Amos Bigelow,	"	12 71
E. V. Burns, lumber,		18 00
John Dale,	labor,	15 60
H. D. Field,	"	19 00
Geo. E. Murdock,	"	6 71
Ira H. Ewers,	"	2 70
E. C. Field, water,		5 00

Thos. Quinlan, labor,	22 75	
E. E. Howes, "	4 35	
Oscar Wood, "	2 55	
Edw. Thornton, ferryman,	37 00	
Mrs. E. M. Pierce, gravel,	16 05	
W. B. Dresser, labor,	3 50	
J. A. Williams, plank,	8 96	
E. I. Thayer, water,	5 00	
BENNETT'S MEADOW BRIDGE.		
Henry C. Holton, labor,	24 84	
Wm. Bain, labor,	12 00	
Warren Shure, labor,	2 00	
F. I. Webster, cement,	7 50	
J. A. Williams, plank,	27 35	
		$73 69
		$4295 99
Northfield's proportion 50 per cent.	$36 84	
Gill's " 15 "	11 06	
Greenfield's " 12 "	8 84	
Montague's " 10 "	7 37	
Bernardston's " 8 "	5 90	
Warwick's " 5 "	3 68	
100.		$73 69
MAPLE STREET.		
C. M. Baldwin, labor,	21 00	
F. V. Doolittle, "	20 47	
F. B. Holton, "	25 75	
Amos Bigelow, "	27 85	
Chas. Slate, "	5 42	
Byron Gillett, "	75	
Wm. Bain, "	3 00	
C. A. Randall, "	10 75	
Mrs. A. Stearns, gravel,	11 50	
		$126 49
NEW (SCHELL) ROAD CONSTRUCTION.		
W. F. Flint, engineer,	$43 00	

F. L. Hale, labor,	10 50	
A. Wallett, "	9 90	
Chas. Rice, "	5 00	
Collins & Norton, bridge,	364 45	
Thos. Quinlan, stone,	12 00	
J. A. Williams, plank,	33 60	
G. L. Dickinson, land damage,	125 00	
Seymour & Newell, contractors,	4300 00	
		$4903 45

STATE ROAD, MAIN STREET.

Mass. Broken Stone Co.,	$2000 00

OLD HOME WEEK.

Amelia Marsh, Washing Dishes,	2 00	
Northfield band,	20 00	
W. H. Barrett, meat,	10 00	
Dr. N. P. Wood, expenses,	1 48	
W. H. Waite, printing,	3 50	
E. L. Hildreth & Co., printing,	16 25	
B. F. Field, postage and express,	8 06	
E. C. Eames, supplies,	9 58	
L. R. Smith, expense,	6 50	
		$77 37

MEMORIAL DAY.

G. A. R. Post, 171,	$50 00

ROAD TO "SCHELL MEMORIAL BRIDGE."

Chas. J. Day, engineer,	$181 81

SCHELL MEMORIAL BRIDGE

E. S. Bardwell, expense,	$ 41 95	
Edward S. Shaw, engineer,	1,000 00	
Ellis & Buswell, contractors,	15,441 00	
New England Structural Co., bridge iron,	489 00	
		$16,971 95

REPORT OF

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

MARTHA WRIGHT:		
Pliny Cutting, sawing wood,	$3 36	
Lucy Fisher, care,	85 75	
Northfield Water Co., water,	4 00	
C. E. Williams, groceries,	45 29	
F. E. Atwood, meat,	16 18	
Harriett E. Arlin, washing,	10 00	
F. W. Doane, wood and ice,	12 25	
Smith & Reed, wood,	5 50	
Mrs. L. E. Fisher, board,	50 00	
		$232 33
PLINY CUTTING:		
John Shea, rent,	17 50	$17 50
MOSES G. COLLER:		
Robbins & Evans, supplies,	40 33	
S. S. Fisher, wood,	21 00	
H. H. Mason, meat,	8 30	
D. L. Park, "	4 20	
Flora Bowman, nursing,	55 00	
Ned Whitney, sawing wood,	2 50	
C. E. Williams, supplies,	2 26	
H. H. Mason, burial,	3 00	
Dr. Newton, medical aid,	2 00	
		$138 59
MRS. MARY MATTOON:		
Cora E. Field, rent.		$72 00
JONATHAN LYMAN:		
O. H. Doolittle, board,	15 00	
H. H. Mason, burial,	3 00	
		$18 00

CHARLES BRIGGS:		
O. H. Doolittle, board,	76 44	
JOHANNA DRISCOLL.		
O H. Doolittle, board,	118 92	
Dr. Newton, medical aid,	5 00	
Farren Hospital, board.	10 00	
	———	$133 92
LYDIA E. PACKARD:		
Northampton Asylum, board,		$169 46
CHARLES LORD:		
Northampton Asylum, board,		$169 46
THEODOSIA WHITAKER:		
Northampton Asylum, board,		$169 46
JOHN TAUSKI:		
Northampton Asylum, board,		$101 21
JOHN CASEY AND FAMILY:		
City of Holyoke, aid,	10 00	
City of Northampton, aid,	4 00	
C. H. Green, rent,	7 50	
	———	$21 50
A. H. RICHARDS AND WIFE:		
Town of Athol, aid,	221 50	
Dr. A. T. Swain, medical aid,	10 00	
	———	$231 50
CHARLES PRATT:		
Dr. Wood, medical aid,		$50
LOUISE G. GIBBS:		
Mrs. C. M. Baldwin, board,		$27 56
J. E. BOSWORTH:		
Dr. Newton, medical aid,		$24 00
WM. DALE:		
F. W. Williams, shanty,	15 00	
J. H. Dalton, lumber,	2 00	
Robbins & Evans, sundries,	1 29	
	———	$18 29
E. R. STRATTON:		
Mrs. J. E. Lincoln, board,		$60 00
L. H. CLAY:		
A. W. Proctor, clothing,	1 75	

L. W. Pratt, wood,	17 00	
C. E. Williams, supplies,	3 27	
		$22 02
Mrs. J. L. May:		
R. C. Porter, board,		$84 50
H. B. Allen and Family:		
Town of Warwick, aid,		$26 50
Charles Clark:		
Dr. N. P. Wood, medical aid,	4 00	
Ben Tenney, board,	3 00	
Car fare,	2 50	
		$9 50
Mrs. C. Kemplin:		
Cash,		$60 00
Total orders drawn account poor,	1884 24	
		$1,884 24

CREDIT.

Due from town of Middlefield, account Chas. Clark,	9 50	
Due from town of Greenfield, account Louise G. Gibbs,	27 56	
Due from Martha Wright,	232 33	
Paid by town of New Salem, acct. of J. E. Bosworth,	24 00	
		$293 39
Total expense of Poor,		$1,580 85

STATE AID ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1902.

Burnham, D. W.,	48 00	
Chase, Loren P.	12 00	
Coller, Gardner	31 50	
Coller, Mrs. Gardner	48 00	
Field, Geo. P.	20 00	
Hart, Thomas	48 00	
Janes, Anna R.	36 00	
Stratton, Mrs. Roswell	48 00	
Strange, Mrs. Wm.	48 00	
Stearns, M. S.	12 00	
Wiley, Nelson O.	48 00	
		$399 50

ELISHA ALEXANDER FUND.

Mrs. T. F. Reed,	10 00	
Emma and Hattie Hilliard,	5 00	
Mrs. J. L. May,	10 00	
Mrs. Claire Smith,	10 00	
Miss Mary Field,	5 00	
		$40 00

HENRY C. HOLTON,
E. S. BARDWELL,
J. L. HAMMOND
} Overseers of the Poor.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

LIABILITIES.

Greenfield Savings Bank,	600 00	
Outstanding orders,	1,277 47	
Central Vermont Railroad, bridge rent,	225 00	
Henry C. Holton, Selectman,	126 25	
E. S. Bardwell, "	243 75	
J. L. Hammond, "	91 50	
Nellie M. Wood, School Committee,	5 26	
	———	$2,569 23

ASSETS.

Cash in Treasury, town funds,	$3,863 36	
Due from town of Middlefield, acct. Charles Clark,	9 50	
" Greenfield, acct. L. G. Gibbs,	27 56	
" Martha Wright,	232 33	
" town of Gill, acct. Bennett's meadow bridge,	11 06	
" " Greenfield, " "	8 84	
" " Montague " "	7 37	
" " Bernardston, " "	5 90	
" " Warwick, " "	3 68	
" M. T. Moore, 1900 tax,	139 87	
" " " " 1901 tax,	729 39	
" E. S. Bardwell, 1902 tax,	1,926 05	
" Town acct. Grade Crossing,	31 25	
	———	$6,996 16
Balance favor of the town,		4,326 93
Schell bridge fund on interest,		$7,070 00

SELECTMEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

697 Orders issued on Town Treasurer since March 4th.

Paid for contingent,	$2,304	02
highways,	4,295	99
poor,	1,884	24
schools,	5,594	18
Schell road construction,	4,903	45
Road to Schell Memorial bridge,	181	81
Memorial day,	50	00
Schell Memorial bridge,	16,971	95
State road, Main street,	2,000	00
Old Home week,	77	37
Cemetery,	130	45
Dickinson Library,	924	01
Maple street repairs,	126	49
		$39,443 96

TREASURER'S REPORT.

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD IN ACCOUNT WITH W. J. WRIGHT, TREASURER.

CR.

By balance from previous year's account,		$ 8,293 94
By cash from H. M. Mason, Sealer Weights and Measures,		1 05
E S. Bardwell, account Martha Wright,		764 17
State Treasurer, account Corporation tax,		17 32
C. S. Richardson, account D. H. Field,		30 00
W.H. Browning, account J. Browning Minor,		1 50
F. V. Wood & Co., account liquor license,		1,300 00
State Treasurer, account State paupers,		6 85
W. S. Allen, account District Court fines,		50 00
State Treasurer, account Inspection of Animals,		17 50
State Treasurer, account Education of Children,		78 00
J. L. Hammond, account sale of boat,		5 00
New Salem, account Mrs. E. Bosworth,		24 00
State Treasurer, account Corporation tax,	$950 50	
State Treasurer, account National Bank tax,	278 29	

State Treasurer, account State Aid tax, 346 00	1,574 99	
Town of Gill, account ferries,	21 26	
Franklin Co. National bank, interest Schell Bridge fund,	345 74	
County Treasurer bank, Dog fund, (returned,)	170 89	
State Treasurer bank, Mass. School fund,	444 76	
Interest Surplus revenue,	64 00	
Interest Cemetery funds,	30 28	
H. H. Mason, rent of Town hall,	33 00	
School Committee tuition,	6 30	
Franklin Co. National bank, loans,	6,883 33	
Francis Schell, Schell Bridge,	20,000 00	
" " " Road,	4,750 00	
M. T. Moore, Coll., 1900 tax,	1,134 71	
" " " 1901 "	2,307 74	
E. S. Bardwell, Coll., 1902 tax,	13,971 46	
		$62,327 59

Dr.

To paid Bond and Interest Bennett's Meadow bridge,	$1,550 00	
State tax,	526 00	
County tax,	2,058 58	
State Treasurer, account liquor license,	325 00	
Franklin Co. National bank, account loans,	7,000 00	
Greenfield Savings bank, endorsement on note,	200 00	
Greenfield Savings bank, interest,	33 17	
State Aid and caskets,	475 00	
Selectmen's orders,	39,226 48	
Cash balance including $7,070.00 Schell Bridge fund,	10,933 36	
		$62,327 59

WARREN J. WRIGHT, Treasurer.

Northfield, February 3, 1903.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

Amount committed for collection,	$15,897 51	
Amount remitted to Treasurer,	13,971 46	
		$1,926 05

E. S. BARDWELL, Collector.

Northfield, Feb. 1st, 1903.

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

M. Bernatonis,	Tax of 1900,	$2 00	
Frank Beveridge,	"	2 00	
George Brereton,	"	2 00	
L. G. Bullis,	"	3 58	
L. E. Burbee,	"	2 00	
L. H. Clay,	"	2 00	
George Field,	"	2 00	
J. M. Irving,	"	2 00	
John Kelley,	"	2 00	
A. L. Kemplin,	"	2 00	
R. Koslifski,	"	2 00	
G. T. McRae,	"	3 97	
Julian Piontek,	"	2 00	
H. L. Shannon,	"	2 00	
Willard Starks,	"	2 00	
John Swenski,	"	2 00	
E. Vanderbilt,	"	2 00	
J. M. Whistler,	"	2 00	
J. H. Safford,	"	2 00	
Thos. Alexander,	"	2 37	
Ira D. Sankey.	"	79	
Mrs. Katherine Sykes,	"	86	
			$45 57

SCHOOLS.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

General appropriation,	$3,100 00	
Repairs,	300 00	
Text-books and supplies,	300 00	
Transportation,	300 00	
Superintendent,	300 00	
Income from the Mass. School fund,	444 76	
Tuition of State children,	78 00	
Dog Fund,	170 89	
Surplus revenue,	64 00	
Tuition,	6 30	
From the state on account of having Superintendent,	200 00	
Reimbursement for salary paid to J. E. Warren,	50 00	
Due May 7, 1903, from State for salary paid to E. F. Howard,	300 00	
Total,		$5,613 95

DISBURSEMENTS.

Teachers' salaries,	$3,717 30	
Fuel,	209 42	
Care of school buildings,	209 50	
Superintendent of schools,	500 00	
Transportation,	338 20	
High School tuition,	58 50	
Repairs on school buildings,	161 93	
Books and supplies,	306 40	
Incidentals,	92 93	
		$5,594 18

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

J. F. Foster, Jr.	$443 50	
M. A. Goodell,	117 00	
E. E. Shaw,	360 00	
J. E. Leach,	339 00	
A. M. Fenton,	70 00	
L. E. Evans,	360 00	
C. R. Russell,	245 00	
A. A. Dalton,	91 00	
M. E. Dwight,	91 00	
M. L. Brenan,	48 00	
M. O. Denison,	131 00	
A. A. Quimby,	120 00	
Ione Shaw,	194 40	
E. C. Burns,	224 00	
B. M. Bowker,	112 50	
Bessie Hunt,	77 00	
E. M. Parker,	110 00	
M. A. Swift,	21 90	
Alice Stone,	11 00	
Blanche Thayer,	60 00	
A. H. Palmer,	91 00	
M. F. Goddard,	161 00	
E. A. Barber,	239 00	
		$3,717 30

FUEL.

F. W. Doane,	$35 50
L. W. Pratt,	13 50
C. B. Field,	16 00
J. J. Fisher,	8 10
J. L. Hammond,	13 15
C. I. Holton,	24 75
C. R. Pomeroy,	2 50
C. W. Slate,	1 40
M. T. Moore,	1 25
Geo. W. Piper,	11 25
Lee Howard, putting in wood,	2 00
Thomas Quinlan,	30 00

F. E. Aldrich, sawing wood,	5 50	
F. B. Spencer,	25 00	
Northfield Seminary, coal, 2 tons,	13 17	
Richard Holton, putting in wood,	1 50	
W. A. Davis, sawing wood,	3 00	
Bernard Fisher, putting in wood,	1 50	
		$209 42

CARE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

C. R. Pomeroy,	$105 80	
A. M. Fenton,	2 45	
Richard Holton,	7 50	
Charles Murphy,	2 10	
L. F. Evans,	6 50	
C. R. Russell,	12 60	
M. E. Dwight,	4 55	
A. A. Dalton,	4 55	
M. O. Denison,	2 50	
Clifford Lyman,	5 00	
Edwin Brown,	11 00	
E. C. Burns,	11 50	
Lewis Urborn,	3 85	
B. M. Bowker,	4 20	
Ione Shaw,	3 85	
May Aldrich,	4 20	
Lee Howard,	8 00	
Blanche Thayer,	2 80	
Mrs. Clara Smith,	2 50	
Mrs. J. H. Abbott,	4 05	
		$209 50

SALARY OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Elmer F. Howard,	$500 00

TRANSPORTATION.

O. D. Adams,	$225 00
S. L. Pike,	48 00
I. Guilmette,	11 00
W. C. Fellows,	13 20

Lyman Smith,	21 00	
D. McD. Ross,	20 00	
		$338 20

TUITION HIGH SCHOOL.

Town of Greenfield,		$58 50

SCHOOL BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

E. J. Kelley,	$ 50	
E. E. Babb,	64 39	
Silver, Burdett & Co.,	2 92	
Robbins & Evans,	9 53	
J. L. Hammet Co.,	108 51	
Rand, McNally & Co.,	12 00	
University Publishing Co.,	1 44	
C. E. Williams,	10 20	
Thompson, Brown & Co.,	7 08	
D. C. Heath & Co.,	9 00	
Geo. F. King,	1 50	
Ginn & Co.,	57 20	
Town of Warwick,	7 20	
National Pub. Co.,	1 90	
E. A. Barber,	3 15	
Milwaukee Brush Co.,	9 50	
G. N. Kidder & Co.,	38	
		$306 40

INCIDENTALS.

M. H. Bardwell, fire extinguisher,	$12 50	
F. W. Doane, freight and cartage as per bills,	9 87	
E. F. Howard, cash expenditures as per bills,	33 72	
Sons of Veterans for rent,	15 00	
Mrs. S. L. Dickenson, for taking school census,	15 00	
Northfield Water Company,	6 00	
C. V. R. R., freight,	84	
		$92 93

REPAIRS.

H. H. Chamberlain, flag-staff irons Center School	$4 65	
R. M. Snow, labor,	9 70	
J. W. Black, labor,	2 50	

Holden & Martin, tile for drain,	9 80	
W. D. Morgan, labor,	6 05	
Smith & Reed, lumber,	22 52	
H. C. Alexander, plastering,	11 02	
A. Wallett, labor on chimney and drain,	14 12	
L. H. Lazelle, painting West Northfield school house,	46 12	
Frank B. Spencer, labor,	7 30	
F. D. Lamson, partition Grammar School room,	5 00	
W. H. Holton, repairs of clocks,	2 25	
H. H. Mason, labor on partition Grammar School room,	7 25	
J. T. Cummings, kalsomining,	12 00	
N. W. Keet, repairs,	1 65	
		$161 93

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

To the Citizens of the Town of Northfield:

In submitting the school report for the year ending Feb. 20, 1903, we refer you to the comprehensive report of Sup't. E. F. Howard. He has stated briefly and clearly, the work that has been done in the various schools of the town. He has given the school statistics and other general information, and outlined the future needs of the schools.

The school houses in the outlying districts are in good condition. Besides the incidental repairs, the West Northfield building has been painted and the grammar room of the Centre building divided by a partition, making the room in every way more comfortable.

There is imperative need of thorough repairs in the Centre building, the want of which materially affects the comfort and well-being of the occupants of the building and seriously interferes with the school work. The floors are poor and cold, the ventilation faulty, and the heating apparatus inadequate. The situation is such as to demand immediate attention. The committee have realized for several years the growing demand for better school accommodations at East Northfield and fully indorse the recommendations made by Mr. Howard in his report.

CALENDAR FOR 1903-1904.

Spring term,	13 weeks,	begins March 23,	closes June 19
Fall term,		begins August 31,	closes Dec. 18
	With a recess from Nov. 20 to 30.		
Winter term,		begins Jan. 4, 1904,	closes Feb. 26

We recommend for the coming year: For teaching, care of buildings and fuel, $3,100.00; for supervision, $300.00; for repairs, $800.00; for books and supplies, $300.00; for conveyance of pupils, $300.00.

L. R. SMITH,
E. S. BARDWELL,
NELLIE M. WOOD,
} School Committee.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools.

To the School Committee of the Town of Northfield:

I respectfully submit my second report, it being the eighth in this series of annual reports.

Population of the town May 1, 1900, 1,966.

Number of persons between five and fifteen years of age in town on the first of September, 1902, 243; males, 115; females, 128.

Number of persons between seven and fourteen years of age in town on the first of September, 1902, 168; males, 82; females, 86.

Number of different pupils in all the schools during the school year ending June, 1902, 313.

Number attending between five and fifteen years of age, 276.

Number attending under five years of age, 21.

Number attending over fifteen years of age, 14.

Number attending between seven and fourteen years of age, 204.

Average membership of all the public schools, 237.4.

Average attendance of all the public schools, 202.6.

Per cent of attendance based upon the average membership, 85.

Number of schools, 10.

Number of teachers, 17.

Numbers of teachers who are graduates of normal schools, 11.

Number of different special teachers, 3.

Detailed Table of Statistics.

Teachers.	School	Weeks Taught	Pupils Enrolled	Average Membership	Average Attendance	Per cent of Attendance
Ernest Libby M. H. Paine J. F. Foster, Jr.	Grammar	12 7 17	48	32.7	30	82.7
Elizabeth Graham M. Azella Goodell	Intermediate	2 34	45	36	28	78
Esther E. Shaw	Primary	36	35	32	27.5	82
Gertrude Nevins J. Ethel Leach	Number 2	23 13	42	37.2	34 2	92.2
Lottie E. Evans	Number 4	36	30	22.8	20.8	91
Minnie E. Dwight	Number 5	36	18	11.2	9.5	84
Cora L. Whitcomb Anna A. Dalton	Number 6	12 24	15	10	9	90
Carrie R. Russell	Number 9	36	22	13.8	11.9	87
Addie L. Littlefield Agnes M. Fenton M. L. Brenan	Number 7	2 28 6	26	19.5	16.3	84
May O. Denison	Kindergarten	14	32	22.2	15.4	70
Totals			313	237 4	202.6	85

ROLL OF HONOR.

During the school year ending in June, 1902, the pupils whose names are given below were neither absent nor tardy for the number of terms indicated by the number at the right.

Ethel Dresser 3,
Lottie Landes 1,
Ruth Moore 1,
Evangeline Landes 2,
Chester Aldrich 1,
Bertha Clough 3,
Hazel Spencer 1,
Marjorie Waite 1,
Ralph Doane 1,
Carl Holton 1,
George Braman 1,
Walter Braman 1,
Elsie M. Banks 1,
Cora M. Brooks 1,
Ethel M. Carroll 1,
Florence M. Carroll 1,
Willis Hilliard 1,
Gertrude Holton 1,
Joseph Waite 1,
Bessie L. Hammond 1,
Murray L. Hammond, 1,
James S. Browning 1,
Bernard Fisher 1,
Herman Fisher 1,
David Pollock 2,
Louis Urbon 1,
Clara Prouty 1,
Edwin Bigelow 2,
William Dresser 3,
Effie Stearnes 1,
Myrtle Dresser 2,
Willie Bigelow 1,
George Bigelow 1,
Harold Bigelow 1,
Elsie A. Holton 1,
Walter Fairman 1,
Newton Howard 1,

RECENT LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO NORTHFIELD.

The General Court of 1902 amended Section 3, Chapter 42, of the Revised Laws so that it now reads as follows:

A town of less than five hundred families or householders in which a public high school or a public school of corresponding grade is not maintained shall pay for the tuition of any child who resides in said town and who, with the previous approval of the school committee of his town, attends the high school of another town or city. If such town neglects or refuses to pay for such tuition, it shall be liable therefor to the parent or guardian of a child who has been furnished with such tuition if the parent or guardian has paid for the same, and otherwise to the city or town furnishing the same, in an action of contract. If the school committee of a town in which a public high school or public school of corresponding grade is not maintained, refuses, upon the completion by a pupil resident therein of the course of study provided by it, to approve his attendance in the high school of some other city or town which he, in the opinion of the superintendent of schools of the town in which he is resident, is qualified to enter, the town shall be liable in an action of contract for his tuition. A town whose valuation is less than seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars shall be entitled to receive from the Commonwealth all necessary amounts, and a town whose valuation exceeds seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars but whose number of families is less than five hundred shall be entitled to receive from the Commonwealth half of all necessary amounts which have been expended for high school tuition under the provisions of this section; provided that such expenditure shall be certified under oath to the board of education by its school committee within thirty days after the date of such expenditure; but if a town of less than five hundred families maintains a high school of its own of the character described in section two of this chapter and employs at least two teachers therein, it shall be entitled to receive annually from the treasury of the Commonwealth toward the support of such high school the sum of three hundred dollars. No town, the valuation of which averages a larger sum for each pupil in the average membership of its public schools than the corresponding average for the Commonwealth shall receive money from the Commonwealth under the provisions of this section; and no expenditure shall be made by the Commonwealth on account of high school instruction under the provisions of this section unless the high school in which such instruction is furnished has been approved by the board of education.

As Northfield has a valuation in excess of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and a valuation less for each pupil in the average membership than the corresponding average for the State, but has less than five hundred families or householders, she is entitled under the provisions of this section to re-imbursement for half the amount paid by the town for the tuition of pupils resident in this town while attending an approved high school in another town or city. Heretofore the town of Northfield has been entitled to no re-imbursement on this account. Also, under the provisions of this law, the town of Northfield has the right to establish a high school with not less than two teachers, and receive three hundred dollars annually toward the support of such a high school.

ATTENDANCE AT OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOLS.

In order that a person may attend an outside public high school at the expense of the town in which he is a resident, it is necessary that the approval of the school committee of the town should first be obtained. It is also necessary that the outside high school shall have the approval of the State Board of Education. In order that the town may then receive from the State re-imbursement for tuition expenditures, it is necessary that the names of all pupils attending outside high schools be kept, together with the dates that mark the beginning and the end of periods for which tuition payments are made. In order that the town may have a legal claim against the State for re-imbursement, a blank supplied for that purpose by the board of education should be filled out and sworn to by the school committee within thirty days after the last tuition payment for any school year has been made.

VALUATION AND TAXATION DATA.

The average valuation in the State for each pupil in the average membership of the public schools May 1, 1901, was $7,313. In Franklin County the town of Whately has the higehst valuation for each pupil in the average membership, or $6,496, and Gill comes next with $4,573; Northfield is third with $4,421; Warwick has the fifth place with $4,236; Leyden occupies the eighth place with $3,680.

Among the twenty-two towns ot this county, Gill has the twenty-first place according to the amount raised by local taxation for school purposes, the tax in this town on one thousand dollars of valuation for

the year beginning May 1, 1901, being $3.10. One town in the county paid less. This was Whately, which paid $2.06. Twenty towns paid more, the largest amount being $6.94, which was paid by the town of Buckland. Northfield ranks eighteenth, her local tax for school purposes being $4.39; Leyden occupies the seventeenth position, paying $4.44; and Warwick is eighth, paying $5.42. All these towns pay large additional amounts for school purposes, but such additional sums are received from some other source than local taxation.

The inference from the above statement of facts as they appear in the reports from the State Board of Education is that this Supervision District is well able to pursue a policy of generosity toward its schools, supplying them with all they need either in salaries, equipment, supplies or buildings.

THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS OF NORTHFIELD.

The conditions in some of the school buildings of this town call gor immediate action. Especially is this true of the building at the Center of the town. It has been conceded for several years that the system of heating and ventilation there was defective, but the committee has hesitated to begin the work of renovation because of the fact that a considerable expenditure would be necessitated before the work was complete. The experiences of the winter now drawing to a close emphasize the desirability of putting off no longer what all acknowledge to be inevitable. The continuance of present conditions will be at the expense of good work by teachers and pupils, and the frequent dismissal of school by reason of discomfort from smoke or cold. It is dangerous to the health of teachers and pupils alike to occupy rooms inadequately heated, full of smoke and poorly ventilated. The sanitation of the building is also open to grave criticism. When large numbers of children are brought together to remain through a large portion of the day, every effort should be made by those having that matter in charge to provide surroundings that are correct from the standpoint of health.

All that has been said about the school house at the Center is equally true at East Northfield. It has been a matter of comment in the reports of your committees and of your superintendent for several years that a new school house should be erected there. At present the need is greater than ever because of the greater number of pupils and

the consequent necessity of dividing the school. A room has been rented for the present, but permanent arrangements should be made without undue delay. The new building should contain the three absolutely necessary elements of utility—heat, ventilation, sanitation—installed in a satisfactory manner and, in addition to these, the element of comfort to teachers and pupils, and the element of beauty in the room and in the structure should receive such consideration as the town can afford.

THE EAST NORTHFIELD SCHOOL.

The number of pupils in this school was so large that no teacher could do work satisfactory to herself or the superintendent or to the people; hence, at the beginning of the school year in September, the school was divided, the first four grades constituting a primary school under the instruction of Miss Lottie Evans, and the next four grades constituting a grammar school nuder the direction of Miss A. A. Quimby. The number of pupils in the two schools has been more than fifty, thus proving the wisdom and the necessity of the change.

THE KINDERGARTEN.

The number of pupils enrolled in the kindergarten last spring was thirty-two. This is a large number of children, ample for the two schools as they were organized—one at Northfield and one at East Northfield. The attendance was very small, however, and often there were hardly enough present for the proper performance of the work. The teacher labored zealously to interest the children and the parents, and was well qualified for her work, being a graduate of Miss Wheelock's Kindergarten Training School in Boston; she had also had experience in Northfield before as assistant while a pupil at the Seminary. As the patronage was voluntary on the part of the parents, and as this patronage did not appear to warrant the expense incurred, the school was discontinued after the summer term.

TRANSPORTATION.

The transportation during the year has been very satisfactory, under the careful management of Mr. O. D. Adams. The number of children on this route has been larger than previously, and for a portion of the time the carriage was well filled. No complaint has reached the committee regarding the comfort of the pupils nor their

protection from the weather. The town is to be congratulated upon the success which has always accompanied this absolutely necessary means of placing good schools within the reach of a few of its citizens. Any suggestion as to making this branch of our work more efficient and satisfactory will receive respectful consideration.

NUMBER SIX.

The school in this district became so small at the close of the fall term that it was necessary to discontinue it. Only three pupils remained to attend school there, and arrangements were made for their transportation elsewhere.

The School Committee has the right to make arrangements for the transportation of pupils residing in town to some other school within the town, and when such arrangements have been made in accordance with the law, no person has the right to refuse to accept the same.

It is legal to require pupils to walk a reasonable distance either before reaching or after leaving the conveyance.

SPECIAL TEACHERS.

It was with deep regret that we were obliged to part with Miss A H. Palmer at the close of the last school year in June. For several years she had taught the music in our schools with such success in winning the esteem of the people, that her name seemed to be a household one in the homes of all the towns of the district; and her professional success was such that singing was as natural for most of the children as reading or writing. The good wishes of all the people of this region went with her to her new field of labor.

We were fortunate in securing as specialist in music one who has been able to take up the work where it was left, and to carry it on with as little break as could be expected. In addition to the towns of this district, the towns of Bernardston and Hinsdale share with us in the services of the special teachers.

In drawing we have been able to retain Miss Barber to continue the work so well begun last year. We believe it would be difficult to find one better adapted to the work, or better qualified by nature and by professional training to direct this work in our district. For the first time, Bernardston united with us in the work of drawing for the year beginning in September last.

BRATTLEBORO FAIR.

The directors of the Brattleboro Fair invited the towns in this immediate vicinity to participate in a school exhibition at the meeting of that organization in September last. Accordingly, all the towns of

this district were represented at the exhibit by work done in the schools, and by the work in music and drawing especially. While the work in these two lines were shown with special care and success, all lines of work in which the schools engage that can be shown on paper were on exhibit. Arithmetic, history, English composition, spelling, geography, manual exercises and kindergarten work were represented, an effort being made to give as comprehensive an idea as possible of the various activities of the school. The expense of this exhibit was very small, being on the average about twenty-five cents for each school. While the specimens of work were taken from the regular work of the pupils, there was an increase of enthusiasm among the pupils because of the fact that a display was to be made. It is believed that the exhibit was creditable to the towns participating, and that a more comprehensive knowledge of the work undertaken by the rural schools, and a more thorough appreciation of the possibilities of these schools resulted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY.

At the last meeting of the Joint Committee of the district, it was voted to pay the Superintendent his full salary monthly, instead of requiring him to receive one-half monthly, and to await the settlement with the State for the balance.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The school attendance for the year just passed has not been satisfactory. The percentage of attendance for the state during the year ending in June, 1901, was about 92, while the percentage for the town for the year ending in June, 1902, was only 85. This percentage should not be so far below the average for the State in a town like Northfield. Illness, truancy, habitual absence, lack of interest on the part of parents, and failure to enforce the law in any case where there seemed a technical violation are all more or less responsible for this result. The interest of the people at home is the most potent means of securing a good attendance, and we wish to urge all those who have the care of a child of school age to secure his regular and punctual attendance on every school day when his health and strength will permit. Attendance at school, secured by the application of the law, is the most unsatisfactory attendance that can be secured. The best work can be obtained on the part of both pupil and teacher when there is a hearty response to the opportunity offered by the town from parent and pupil. This is the case in most families of the district as well as the town.

THE END OF ALL EDUCATION.

It is easy to lose sight of the real end of education in the anxiety of teachers, people and officials to produce striking results in reading, writing and arithmetic. Every educator will magnify the element of character as the real aim, and the one necessary thing for the safety of our institutions, but in practice, we are all likely to devote most of our efforts to the production of facility in those subjects of study which are considered the most necessary to life, while we forget the development of the moral qualities that make the character of the individual good or bad. If the home training is correct, this omission of the school may be supplied there; otherwise, there is likely to be a lack in the quality of our youth, for which the school is responsible in so far as it has come short of its power and duty.

So far as it has been the privilege of your Superintendent to meet the people personally, there has seemed to be a ready and hearty attempt to co-operate with the schools in the production of the best results possible for their children. It is hoped that this joint attempt will insure the correction of such weaknesses as now exist and bring strength to the work of every department of our public schools.

With sincere gratitude for the encouragements, I have received from all in the prosecution of my duties this year, and with special acknowledgments of my obligation to the School Committee and to the teachers, I respectfully submit my report.

ELMER F. HOWARD, Superintendent of Schools.

Report of Cemetery Commissioners.

We herewith submit our report for the past year for your consideration.

The several cemeteries have had only the necessary care, and many little things planned to be done had to be passed by on account of scarcity of help. You will notice that the whole of the appropriation was not used, but would recommend that the same amount, ($150.00) be appropriated for the coming year, as ordinarially this amount is small enough.

The grading in the Centre Cemetery was not done this year, but we plan to finish this in the early spring.

The gates at the Cemetery at West Northfield have been widened, making a much needed improvement.

At the Farms a row of stone hitching posts have been placed just outside the fence.

We have on hand from sale of lots at Centre,	$67 24
Farms,	121 30
West Northfield,	13 75

We also have a number of deeds on hand ready for delivery, and would urge all those that have taken up these lots to come forward and get their deeds.

Paid for work as follows:

Ernest Clough,	$ 3 00
Charles Janes,	6 00
Rollin Janes,	4 50
John Pratt,	7 20
Charles Rice,	6 00
Benj. Tenney,	4 60
Adolphus Wallett,	20 60
F. A. Sampson,	7 00
F. L. Hale,	75
Frank Harness,	3 00

Henry C. Holton,	2 00	
Jos. and Merton Clark,	1 20	
R. E. Dickinson,	19 28	
Arad Stratton,	7 50	
F. A. Hilliard,	7 30	
C. C. Stearns,	3 25	
		$103 18
Care of private lots,		27 27
		$130 45

Appropriation,	150 00	
Private lots,	27 27	
		$177 27
Unexpended balance,		$46 82

FREEMAN A. HILLIARD,
CHARLES C. STEARNS,
ROSWELL E. DICKINSON,
} Cemetery Commissioners.

CEMETERY.

John Pratt, labor,	$7 20	
Ernest Clough, "	3 00	
Rollin Janes, "	4 50	
Chas. E. Janes, "	6 00	
Chas Rice, "	6 00	
A. Wallett, "	20 60	
B. R. Tenney, "	4 60	
Frank Harness, "	3 00	
F. A. Sampson, "	7 00	
A. Stratton, "	7 50	
F. L. Hale, "	75	
H. C. Holton, "	2 00	
F. A. Hilliard, "	7 30	
R. E. Dickinson, "	19 28	
Jos. and M. Clark "	1 20	
C. C. Stearns, "	3 25	
C. C. Stearns, care private lots,	27 27	
		$130 45

Report of the Book Committee.

The report of the Librarian, which all are invited to read with care, renders an extended report of the Book Committee unnecessary. The number of books we have been able to buy, while much too small, is somewhat larger than usual. It includes the very valuable "Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia and Atlas. The reading room has been supplied by subscription with the Review of Reviews, New England Magazine, Harper's, Scribner's, Century, Atlantic Monthly, McClure's, St. Nicholas, Ladies' Home Journal, Success, Youth's Companion, Outlook, Independent, Springfield Weekly Republican, Harper's Weekly, Greenfield Gazette and Courier, Greenfield Recorder, Vermont Phoenix and Windham County Reformer, the last five of which have been added to the usual list during the year. The following periodicals are regularly given: The Congregationa ist, by Mrs. A. M. D. Alexander; The Pilot, by James Wall; The Christian Register, by the Young People's Guild; Illustrated London News, by Miss Fannie Field; Record of Christian Work, by W. R. Moody; Union Signal, by the Northfield Woman's Christian Temperance Union; Our Dumb Animals, by Rev. George F. Piper; Advocate of Peace, by the American Peace Society; Christian Science Journal; Paradise of the Pacific, and League of American Wheelmen, by unknown donors. For these periodicals the donors have our thanks. We also extend our thanks to those who have kindly given books. While it is gratifying to be able to report that the reading room has been visited by a larger number of readers than in any former years, it is to be regretted that the reference library, which contains some of the best books of reference, is still so little used.

GEO. F. PIPER,
MRS. M. A. CALDWELL,
N. FAY SMITH,
} Book Committee.

Report of the Trustees of Dickinson Memorial Library.

In presenting their annual report, the trustees are pained to record the death of the donor, Elijah M. Dickinson, which occurred in Fitchburg, October 10, 1902. Not only did Mr. Dickinson present to Northfield one of the finest library buildings in Massachusetts outside the large cities, but he manifested a constant interest in its care and equipment by frequent visits, nearly always bringing something of value to the library either of relics, books or pictures. His funeral was held at his late home in Fitchburg, Oct. 13th, and was attended by C. H. Green and N. P. Wood, representing the library trustees. A beautiful ivy wreath with a card attached inscribed, "Trustees of Dickinson Memorial Library" was one of the floral tributes.

On the next week, at a special meeting of the trustees, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS; It has pleased an allwise Providence to remove from the activities of this life our friend and benefactor, Elijah M. Dickinson:

RESOLVED; that we remember with gratitude his generous and constant interest in the welfare of Northfield, his birthplace:

We recognize his contribution to the cause of local history through his marking in an appropriate and enduring manner the place where Nathaniel Dickinson, Ashel Burt and Aaron Belding were killed by the Indians, and his interest in the religious and social welfare of the town through his erecting a hall in West Northfield for such purposes:

But most of all do we hold him in grateful remembrance for his bounty in erecting and giving to this town our commodious and beautiful library building, a store-house of culture and of progress, a treasure-house of literature and of learning.

RESOLVED; that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of the library trustees, be printed in the Gazette and Courier, and in The Fitchburg Sentinel, and be sent the family of the deceased.

We wish to call the attention of all citizens to a valuable feature of our library, which is not appreciated and used as it deserves to be. We pay a membership fee of five dollars ($5.00) each year to "The Library Art Club" which entitles us to an exhibition of all photographs or other pictures possessed by the club. These are circulated in sets of fifty pictures, more or less, each set being on exhibition in our library two or three weeks. These pictures are valuable as educators in Geography, History and Art. Catalogues are sent with each set. Parents and teachers are urged to come with the children to inspect and interpret these exhibitions.

The following is a list of relics and other articles presented to the library during the past year, with names of donors: Picture of the old church dedicated in 1833, burned Dec. 25, 1870, by Lucy Webster; portraits, chair and china sugar bowl, by C. W. Mattoon; ancient pewter platter, by Martin Brown; case of stuffed birds, by E. M. Dickinson; petrified wood and minerals, by Mrs. Woodworth of California; skeleton of Indian, by W. D. Morgan; loaned, a glass case of valuable relics, by J. R. Colton; ancient drinking jug, given by Mrs. Henry Wright; facsimile Indian cradle, ancient toddy glass, masonic regalia and carved Chinese fan, by Martha Hall; lace cap and bread tray, by Ansel Field; ancient scrap book, 1806, by Sally Minot; ancient spectacles and trunk, by Mary Pomeroy; a shoe last, by E. M. Dickinson. Clippings from The Gazette and Courier of Northfield items since about 1870 have been furnished the library by H. W. Rankin and Sally Minot, and these have been pasted in order into a large scrap book by the librarian. She is now clipping these items each week, and preserving them in the same way. This is forming a valuable reference work for the library.

The following named are donors of books with the number by each: John Phelps, 6 Vols.; Mrs. Davenport, 7 Vols.; N. P. Wood, 3 Vols.; Pioneers of Massachusetts by "One who loves to give;" Mrs. Sias, 4 Vols.; Mrs. A. M. D. Alexander, 1 Vol.; E. M. Dickinson, 1 Vol.; Thos. W. Lawson, 1 Vol.; Misses Belcher, 1 Vol.; A. S. Jennings 1 Vol.; Public Documents, 29 Vols.

The reports of the book committee and librarian appended, are worthy of your careful consideration. The accompanying financial report indicates the use to which the appropriation of last year has been put. We recommend an appropriation of $700 for the year ensuing.

Library Current Expense Report.

DeWolfe, Fiske & Co., books.	$97 88	
Thos. Quinlan, wood,	51 50	
Library Art Club,	5 00	
David Farquhar,	14 25	
Greenfield Recorder,	1 50	
Vermont Phoenix,	1 50	
E. A. Hall & Co.,	2 00	
Brattleboro Reformer,	1 50	
Current History,	2 50	
Northfield Water Co.,	2 60	
S. E. Bridgman & Co.,	35 15	
DeWolf, Fisk & Co.,	42 39	
John Wannamaker, books,	57 00	
Pliny Cutting, work,	13 62	
Heywood Bros., chairs,	162 50	
Central Vt. R. R. freight,	3 77	
W. D. Morgan, work,	9 15	
Library Bureau,	4 70	
Silver Burdette & Co., books,	13 10	
C. H. Green,	7 00	
Northfield Farms Library,	20 00	
Mrs. F. J. Stockbridge, librarian,	150 00	
F. J. Stockbridge, janitor,	150 00	
Johnson & Daniels, show case,	75 00	
	———	923 61

N. P. WOOD,
C. H. GREEN,
GEO. F. PIPER,
H. W. MONTAGUE,
MRS. M. A. CALDWELL,
N. FAY SMITH,
} Library Trustees.

LIBRARY REPORT.

FOR YEAR ENDING FEB. 7, 1903.

Number volumes in library last report,	4,793
Number purchased past year,	173
Number given,	55
Magazines bound, (vol's.)	9
	5,030
Number worn out,	8
Number lost,	4
Number destroyed an account of contagion,	3
Total in library,	5,015
Number families patrons of library,	231
Number individuals,	47
Families from surrounding towns,	3
Number visitors taking books,	61
Number books taken by families,	8341
Number books taken by public schools,	206
Number books taken by visitors,	486
Number magazines taken,	1312
Total circulation,	10345
Amount of fines collected,	$20 23
Received from families out of town,	3 00
Received for lost book,	'50
Amount paid for incidentals,	24 10
Balance on hand.	$9 73

READING ROOM.

Publications subscribed for	20
Publications given regularly	11
Number readers using reading room during year,	2720

MRS. F. J. STOCKBRIDGE, Librarian.